

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A sorbent suitable for use as a stationary phase in elution chromatography, the core of said sorbent consisting ~~[[or]]~~ of an organic resin and ~~said sorbent having~~ wherein a plurality of ~~covalently bonded~~ non-aromatic ~~witterionic~~ zwitterionic groups are covalently bonded on its the surface of said sorbent.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A sorbent according to claim 15, characterized in that the sorbent further comprises a porous carrier.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A sorbent according to claim 15, characterized in that the zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been bound to the carrier by polymerizing, ~~preferably graft-polymerizing,~~ monomers comprising non-aromatic zwitterionic groups on the surface of the carrier.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A sorbent according to claim 17, characterized in that the zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been incorporated throughout the structure of the carrier sorbent by polymerizing monomers comprising non-aromatic

zwitterionic groups together with suitable divinyl crosslinking monomers.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A sorbent according to claim 15, characterized in that the zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been bound to the carrier by activation of the carrier with an alkylating functional group, which is subsequently reacted with an ω -dialkylamino-alkylsulfonic acid to form non-aromatic zwitterionic groups on the carrier.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A sorbent carrier according to claim 15, characterized in that the surface of the organic resin has been activated by incorporation of a reactive functional group ~~such as epoxy, or halogenoalkyl, such as chloroalkyl or bromoalkyl~~ and that is capable of alkylating the amino group of an ~~aminoalkylsulfonic~~ aminoalkylsulfonic acid in a reaction producing covalently bonded zwitterionic non-aromatic groups on the sorbent carrier.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A sorbent carrier according to claim 15, characterized in that the surface of the organic resin has been activated by incorporation of a reactive functional group ~~such as hydroxyalkyl, carboxylic acid, carboxylic acid chloride, carboxylic acid bromide, carboxylic anhydride, carboxylic ester, alkyl oxonium, epoxy, chloroalkyl, bromoalkyl, diazoalkyl, or activated amide such as a carboxylic imidazolide or triazolide~~, that is capable of forming an ester or

ether bond with a hydroxyl group residing on the alkyl chain interconnecting the quarternary ammonium group and the sulfonate group in a sulfobetaine zwitterion, thus covalently binding a non-aromatic zwitterionic group to the surface of the activated sorbent carrier in a lateral fashion.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A sorbent carrier according to claim 15, characterized in that the carrier is a polymeric monolith.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A sorbent carrier according to claim 15, characterized in that the zwitterionic groups are ω -sulfoalkyl-trialkylammonio (sulfobetaine) groups.

Claims 24-27 (canceled without prejudice).

Claim 28 (new): A sorbent according to claim 17, wherein the zwitterionic groups have been bound to the carrier by graft polymerizing monomers comprising non-aromatic zwitterionic groups on the surface of the carrier.

Claim 29 (new): The sorbent carrier of claim 20, wherein the reactive functional group is one of an epoxy and a halogenoalkyl.

Claim 30 (new): The sorbent carrier of claim 21, wherein the reactive functional group is one of a hydroxyalkyl, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid chloride, a carboxylic acid bromide, a carboxylic anhydride, a carboxylic ester, an alkyl

oxonium, an epoxy, a chloroalkyl, a bromoalkyl, a diazoalkyl, and an activated amide.

Claim 31 (new): A sorbent, comprising:
a core consisting of an organic resin;
a sorbent surface; and
a plurality of non-aromatic zwitterionic groups covalently bonded to said surface;
and wherein said sorbent has selective sorption properties so that said sorbent can be used as a stationary phase in chromatographic separations.

Claim 32 (new): The sorbent according to claim 31, wherein said zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been bound to the surface of the sorbent by graft polymerization of monomers comprising non-aromatic zwitterionic groups.

Claim 33 (new): The sorbent according to claim 31, wherein said zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been bound to the sorbent by activation with an alkylating functional group and then reacted with a ω -dialkylaminoalkylsulfonic acid to form non-aromatic zwitterionic groups on the sorbent.

Claim 34 (new): The sorbent according to claim 31, wherein said sorbent is porous.

Claim 35 (new): The sorbent according to claim 31, wherein said sorbent is porous and has pore diameters ranging from 0.01 to 10 μ m.

Claim 36 (new): A sorbent suitable for use as a stationary phase in elution chromatography, comprising:

a core consisting of an organic resin;

a sorbent surface; and

a plurality of non-aromatic zwitterionic groups covalently bonded to the surface.

Claim 37 (new): The sorbent according to claim 36, wherein said sorbent is a porous monolithic sorbent carrier.

Claim 38 (new): The sorbent according to claim 36, wherein said zwitterionic non-aromatic groups have been bound to the surface of the sorbent by graft polymerization of monomers comprising non-aromatic zwitterionic groups.